

The Open Mike^{District 2}

A Newsletter From Councilman **Mike Knapp**

Volume 4, Number 4

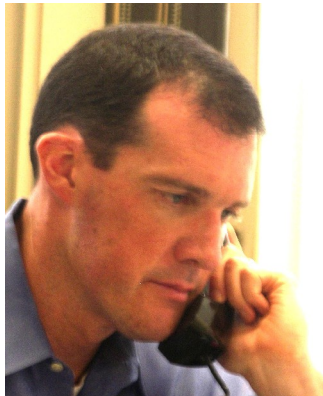
Autumn 2008

A Moment at the Mike

The Great Fall

It's October, and at times, the economic outlook seems to be falling faster than autumn leaves.

Banks and insurance companies are failing. Organizations that sound like members of your family -- Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae -- are now living under your roof for you to support, raiding your fridge and messing with the thermostat. Newspaper headlines scream at us about one financial crisis after another, saturating us with horror stories on interest rates, market shares, and sub-prime loans.



Councilmember Knapp

We're certainly feeling it here in Maryland. A survey by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities shows that the District and at least 29 states face shortfalls in their current fiscal year—including Maryland, which faces a projected budget shortfall of several hundred million dollars. While Annapolis went searching for new revenue in a number of places last year—including socking it to Montgomery County residents—one hope was that raising the sales tax would help bring in some much-needed income for the State. Under the current economic conditions, however, residents are holding on to their money—and when people aren't buying, sales tax revenue isn't flowing . . . and the budget gap widens.

It's not yet clear how the state intends to clean up this year's budget problem, but it's already announced reductions in transportation projects—like the intersection of MD 108 and MD 650 in Ashton—and will likely continue to reduce other forms of assistance to county governments for shared projects and services. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, for example, is already bracing for reductions in health and mental health services.

It's probably not going to get much better. Regardless of one's views on slots (see below), the projected revenues that the State would take in with implementation of the slots initiative won't begin to cover the budget shortfall. The governor and the General Assembly face an enormous challenge in determining how to close the shortfall—and they need to do so in a way that does not burden Montgomery County, with its reputation as the fiscal engine of the state, with a disproportionate amount of the pain required to balance the books in Annapolis. Unfortunately,

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The Great Fall

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last year's State budget looked to Montgomery County first, leaving our county at a disadvantage when it came to investing in programs closer to home.

Bleak? Certainly—but not hopeless. We're taking the challenges seriously here at the County Council. For example, the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee, which I chair, recently held a roundtable discussion with leading economists, fiscal analysts, and leaders from the private sector to discuss financial conditions—both in Maryland and across the country—and learn more about potential causes of the downturn and its impact on our county.

We learned that while the housing market remains problematic, our county hasn't been hit as hard as some counties in terms of job growth or revenues. Our county, for example, has the lowest unemployment rate in the State of Maryland—and we even added 2,000 jobs last year. Those are both good things—but a frank assessment of our county's economic strengths and weaknesses helps us as a Council determine where we need to focus our energy and our resources to bolster our local economy. In other words, we now know exactly which ball to keep our eye on.

When it comes to housing, then, we know that we need to continue to do what we can to stabilize foreclosures and, just as important, provide information and assistance to those who are facing—or in danger of facing—foreclosure. (For help, see below). We should also consider other measures to spur on the housing market. We might, for example, look at mechanisms to help absorb the foreclosed properties. Or perhaps we can provide a tax credit for first-time homeowners who purchase foreclosed homes. Earlier, I discussed a "tax holiday" for the recordation tax. These sort of measures not only put people in homes—or help them keep their current home—but it also gives our local economy the boost it needs.

I'm very encouraged by the fact that all of us — the State, the County Council, and the Board of Education — are at the same table at the beginning of the budget process, for perhaps the first time ever.

Additionally, on September 23, I asked the county's finance officers—and Warren G. Deschenaux, the chief budget analyst for the General Assembly in Annapolis—to brief the Council on the State's fiscal outlook, so we might determine what fiscal obstacles we're looking at as we prepare for next year's budget. I also asked the Board of Education to join us for the discussion, so we would all be working from the same set of assumptions when it comes time to prepare the budget. I'm actually very encouraged by the fact that all of us—the State, the County Council, and the Board of Education—are at the same table at the beginning of the process for perhaps the first time ever. So far, in our fiscal plan for next year (FY 2010), we're already assuming a more conservative rate of growth in our calculation—instead of assuming 8 percent growth, for example, we're estimating a growth rate of less than 6 percent. But that still leaves us with a budget gap of about \$250 million for next year—and that's assuming we stay at the charter limit.

Is that gap insurmountable? Absolutely not. For one thing, for the current fiscal year, we're still living within our means, maintaining our investments in the programs you've indicated are

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Facing Foreclosure? Ask For Help!

More than half of those facing foreclosure never ask for help. I know it can be embarrassing, but don't be afraid to ask for assistance. Most foreclosures take three to six months, and the State Assembly has passed legislation requiring that the foreclosure timetable be lengthened from 15 days to 150. That means you've got some time to perhaps get things sorted out -- provided you ask for help, that is.

Home Owners Preserving Equity (HOPE) (<http://www.mdhope.org/>) is a state program that provides access to counseling services and resources for homeowners needing to refinance. **Help is also available from the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection at (240) 777-3636.**

State Hotline: 1-(877)-462-7555 / National hotline: 888-995-4673

Fall

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important to you—like education, public safety, and transportation—while keeping our budget balanced. Both the school system and county government have hiring freezes in place to keep costs down. We've proven we can exercise—and maintain—the fiscal discipline needed to keep our services affordable while living within our means.

But our real challenge is to act now—and not next spring—to begin crafting a budget proposal that closes the projected \$250 million gap and still ensures we maintain our commitment to our core services and priorities. That means working with our employees to negotiate new terms to help us keep cost of living increases manageable, while still ensuring we maintain a commitment to excellence in government services. It means changing our assumptions on spending and revenue, and looking at our reserves -- which, after all, are there for such difficult times. We've got to look at all our options, and we've got to start doing it now, to lay the foundation for a balanced budget well before the formal process begins.

The Council will continue to watch the drama unfold on Wall Street, and in Washington, DC—as, I'm sure, will you. We're already working to determine how the current economic decline affects us in Montgomery County, and to do what we can to deal with our budget responsibly. I hope you'll keep writing with your comments and concerns.

Regards,



Michael J. Knapp
Councilmember, District 2

Work Begins on East Germantown Fire Station



Tossing dirt to get the project started are, left to right: Fire Chief Thomas Carr; Montgomery County Councilmember Marc Elrich; Council President Mike Knapp; Councilmember Phil Andrews; County Executive Isiah Leggett; State Delegate Charles Barkley; State Senator Nancy King; and State Delegate Craig Rice.

On Wednesday, September 24, I joined the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service at the ground breaking ceremony for the East Germantown Fire Station. The fire station will be located near the intersection of Route 355 and Boland Farm Road. The station's first due area will cover 12.7 miles, which includes residences, commercial properties, and schools in the Milestone, Neelsville, Fox Chapel, and Middlebrook areas, as well as the Ridge Road Recreation Park.

We've needed this fire station, and the West Germantown Fire Station, for many, many years. Our first priority is the safety of our residents. I was pleased to be a part of the ground breaking ceremony, but look forward to having the station open and serving the needs of our residents.

The station will have four drive-through apparatus bays, administrative space, living space, private quarters, support spaces, and will encompass 22,200 square feet. The one story fire station will be situated on a 3.9 acre site, and has a projected cost of \$17 million. Initial apparatus and staffing assignments for the station will include one engine staffed with four persons, one Rescue Squad staffed with three persons, and one EMS unit staffed with two personnel, and volunteer staffing.

The East Germantown Fire Station is scheduled to open in early 2010.

Councilmember.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov

Parking Restriction Bill Awaiting Clearance by Executive Workgroup

On September 11, the Public Safety Committee held its first work-session on Bill 27-08. The bill—which I introduced—would prohibit parking of commercial and recreational vehicles on county owned, residential roads.



During the work-session, representatives for the County Executive also informed the committee of work being done by the County Executive's Code Enforcement Workgroup. The workgroup has been tasked with looking at both on- and off-street parking regulations in the County Code and the Zoning Ordinance. Because Bill 27-08 and the work of the group are similar, the group has asked the Public Safety Committee to postpone their recommendation of Bill 27-08 until they release their final report. The group's report was expected last week, but has not yet been received.

I will continue to work with the chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Councilmember Phil Andrews, to try to move forward on Bill 27-08 as quickly as possible.

Bill 27-08 was introduced on June 24, and a public hearing was held July 22. It's not too late to let me know what you think. Write or call me with your thoughts.

Knapp Lives on Food Stamps For One Week

"Food Stamp Challenge" Offers a Look at Shopping, Eating for \$25 a Week

During the last full week in September, I accepted an invitation from Manna Food Center -- a non-profit organization committed to eliminating hunger in Montgomery County -- to participate in the Food Stamp Challenge. The Food Stamp Challenge gives participants the opportunity to see what it's like to live on food purchased for no more than \$25 a week, which is roughly the equivalent of what an individual who is eligible for food stamps receives each week. The average food stamp benefit works out to about \$1 a meal per person.

On the first day of the week-long challenge, my two daughters and I went shopping to see if we could at least accomplish the first part of the challenge -- to get groceries for the week for less than \$25. Here's what we ended up with:

16 oz. can of Hunt's Meat Spaghetti Sauce - \$1.20
 2 cans of Dole frozen orange/pineapple juice - \$1.69 each
 Malt O' Meal Raisin Bran - \$2.50
 1 loaf of wheat bread - \$2.39
 1 dozen eggs - \$1.89
 1/2 lb. smoked turkey breast - \$3.17
 1 head of iceberg lettuce - \$1.79
 1 gallon skim milk - \$3.99
 7 bananas at .58/lb. - \$1.48
 1 16 oz. box thin spaghetti - \$1.00
 1 can bean with bacon soup - \$1.09

The Rest of the Story

To read more -- including my daily menu -- visit my blog at michaeljknapp.blogspot.com

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Food Stamps

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That's a total of \$23.88, which left me with \$1.12 in case of an emergency as the week went by.

So, what did I eat? Did I make it? Or did I run out of food? You can follow my progress for the week on my blog, *Starting With The Socks*, at michaeljknapp.blogspot.com.

I found the experience to be very rewarding, and eye-opening. It was also a great educational tool for my daughters. I am blessed that I don't have to live this way every week, but right now -- and, unfortunately, even when the economy is good -- there are far too many for whom this is how they live. In a nation as prosperous as ours, we can and must do more make sure no one goes hungry.

About Manna Food Center:

Manna Food Center provides food to nearly 2,000 households each month, but in reality, Manna Food Center helps the working poor stretch their limited dollars so they can afford a better life. Manna Food Center gives families the opportunity to share their day over a healthy, home-cooked dinner. Manna provides children with the chance to succeed in school by helping ensure their nutritional needs are met, offers strength to our neighbors who are ill or elderly, and provides a helping hand to people who face temporary hardship or unemployment.



Community Bulletin Board

Community Meeting in Beallsville

The Montgomery County Department of Parks, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is inviting the community to participate in a public meeting to discuss the draft Facility Plan for the next phase of development of Woodstock Equestrian Park.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 in the park activity building at Owen's Local Park, 19900 Beallsville Road, Beallsville, MD.

For more information about the meeting or park, please contact David Tobin at 301-495-2478, (email: david.tobin@montgomeryparks.org) or Linda Komes at 301-650-2860 (email: linda.komes@montgomeryparks.org)

Germantown Oktoberfest Needs Volunteers!

Germantown Oktoberfest -- which will be held the weekend of October 4-5 -- is in need of volunteers. If you're interested in lending a hand, call Nancy Hislop at (240) 777-8044.

Damascus Museum Celebrates Groundbreaking



Breaking ground for the site of the Damascus Heritage Society Museum: Damascus resident and Damascus Heritage Society (DHS) member Harvey Ziegler, Cathy Matthews (representing the County Executive), Councilmember Mike Knapp, James Starcher (DHS), Charles Crawford (DHS), Jeannette Mendonca (office of Senator Rona Kramer), Dan King (DHS), museum contractor Ken Lefebvre, and Randy Scritchfield (DHS).

In late summer, I had the pleasure of participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Damascus Heritage Society Museum, on the location of its temporary site behind the Damascus Library and Senior Center.

The brainchild of proactive locals, the Damascus Museum is committed to celebrating the unique agricultural, educational, economic, social and spiritual history of Damascus -- a community that traces its roots back to the early 1800s. With the help of the State delegation in Annapolis, the Damascus Heritage Society received a grant for \$200,000 from the State of Maryland, which will be triggered when the organization raises \$50,000 in cash and \$50,000 in in-kind contributions. While it's making progress, the Heritage Society is still a long way from meeting that goal, and can use your help.

If you'd like to get involved, make a donation, or just need more information, visit the Damascus Heritage Society Museum website at <http://www.dhsm.org/>.

Councilmember Mike Knapp
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Chairman's Corner**PHED Examines Twinbrook, Wheaton Sector Plans**

Over the next month, the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED) will be looking closely at the Twinbrook and Wheaton Sector Plans. We'll also study an amendment to the master Plan for Historic Preservation regarding Damascus-Goshen Resources.

On October 30, we'll discuss the Office of Legislative Oversight's report regarding the evaluation of the Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc.

PHED Committee Schedule

The information is subject to change, so please check the Council's website as dates near for updated information. Unless otherwise indicated, all committee meetings will convene in the 7th Floor hearing room of the Council Office Building.

DATE	TIME	MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION
October 6	2:00 p.m.	Twinbrook Sector Plan SRA 08-02: Alternative Review Committee - Functions ZTA 08-07 : Alternative Review Committee - Functions
October 13	2:00 p.m.	ZTA 08-11 : Residential Zones - Standards Bill 15-08 : Building Permit - Notice
October 20	2:00 p.m.	Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation : Damascus-Goshen Resources
October 27	2:00 p.m.	Limited Amendment to Wheaton Sector Plan Quarterly Fiscal Update - Planning Department Quarterly Review - Management Improvement Plan Quarterly Fiscal Update - Enterprise Fund
October 30	9:30 a.m.	OLO Report 2009-3: 2008 Evaluation of the Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. MCPB Regulation 08-1: Enforcement Rules Discussion: Emerging Communities Update: Burtonsville Community Revitalization

Step Up To The Open Mike -- Subscribe!

The Open Mike is an electronic newsletter published by Councilmember Michael J. Knapp (District 2). If you would like to be added to the electronic distribution list, please subscribe by registering at <https://ext01.montgomerycountymd.gov/entp/s1p/esubpublic/newssubscriber.do> -- and then indicate you'd like to subscribe to information on District 2. And if you need to update your e-mail address or would like to be taken off this distribution list, please modify or remove your subscription, you may do so at the link above.

The Road Scholar

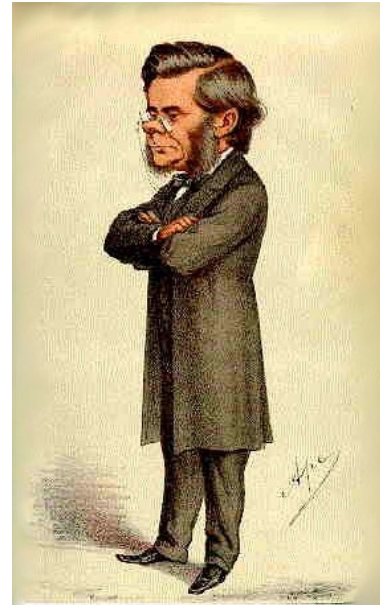
Montgomery Village Avenue Paving Under Way

Got a road that needs repairing? A traffic light that's out? Is there a street or intersection that you think needs a stop sign or crosswalk? One of my responsibilities is to make sure someone knows about it -- and to do what I can to get you information on your question or request as quickly as possible.

I stay in regular contact with the [Montgomery County Department of Transportation](#) (DOT) and the [Maryland State Highways Administration](#) (MSHA), and provide each agency with a list of projects that need addressing in the Upcounty.

Both agencies receive countless requests each week, and getting a response back can take some time. So bear with me - if you don't see a particular project listed here, that doesn't mean it has been forgotten or neglected, but rather that I haven't received an updated report on its progress this month.

With this in mind, the Road Scholar section of *The Open Mike* provides an opportunity to give you the latest information received from DPWT, MSHA, and others on the progress of requests that have been submitted on your behalf. It's also an opportunity for you to [let me know](#) of other projects that may need to be undertaken in your community.



Got question or suggestion about road repairs in your area? [E-mail the Road Scholar](#) and let us know.

Montgomery County Department of Transportation Projects

Montgomery Village Avenue Paving: DOT is in the process of repaving Montgomery Village Avenue from Mid-County Highway to Wightman Road. The Division of Highway Services will be using hot mix asphalt paving, and will carry out full depth asphalt patching of the pavement to make necessary repairs.

Work on this project began on September 22, and will continue for approximately four weeks, weather permitting. Work hours will be between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Continuous traffic will be maintained at all times, though there may be lane closures and one-way/alternating traffic patterns. Paving will also require some lane closures and parking restrictions. Watch for signage in the area indicating where parking is and isn't permitted.

This project falls under the County's Primary/Arterial Roadway Resurfacing Program.

Read Councilmember Knapp's blog, *Starting With The Socks*, at:
<http://michaeljknapp.blogspot.com>

Vote on November 4!**Voter Registration Open Until October 14;
Absentee Ballot Requests Due October 28**

This year's General Election is on Tuesday, November 4. In response to questions I've been getting in my office, here's the latest information on voter registration and absentee ballots, courtesy of the Montgomery County Board of Elections:

October 14 is the last day to register to vote in the November 4 election. To register, download an application at www.elections.state.md.us.

Voting Absentee

Once registered, any voter may vote by absentee ballot. To request an absentee ballot, visit www.elections.state.md.us. If you complete and submit this form, you must affirm on the oath that is returned with your voted ballot that you "will be absent or unable to vote in person in the election."

To vote in the General Election on November 4, a request for an absentee ballot must be received by:

- 4:30 p.m. on October 28, 2008, if the application is mailed; or
- 11:59 p.m. on October 28, 2008, if the application is faxed.

After this deadline, a Late Application for Absentee Ballot must be completed in person at the board of elections.

Please note that Maryland does not have a permanent absentee list. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, you must apply for an absentee ballot each primary and general election cycle.

Military and Overseas Voters

Under the federal [Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act](#), military and overseas voters can vote by absentee ballot. If you are a military or overseas voter, [learn more about absentee voting](#) and the FVAP's [On-line Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot](#).

Ballots are typically available for mailing approximately three weeks before an election. After you receive your absentee ballot and read the instructions, vote the ballot and return it to <http://www.777vote.org/>

To be counted for the Presidential General Election on November 4, 2008, the completed ballot must be received by the local board of elections by 8:00 p.m. on election day, or mailed on or before election day, bearing a postmark verifying that fact, and received from the postal service or private mail carrier by 10:00 a.m. on November 14, 2008.

Important Note: Do not take your voted absentee ballot to the polls on election day. A voted absentee ballot turned in at the polls will not be counted. On election day, you must deliver your voted absentee ballot to Montgomery County Board of Elections, 751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland, 20851.

And speaking of voting....**Voters Facing Ballot Initiative on Slots**

When Marylanders go to the poll on November 4, you'll be faced with a ballot initiative – Question 2 – asking whether you'd like to permit the General Assembly to authorize expanded forms of gambling in a maximum of five sites in Maryland. My office has been receiving phone calls asking for more information on this referendum, so I wanted to take the opportunity to make the language of the referendum available here. Registered voters will also receive more information in their sample ballots.

Here's the language you'll be asked to vote on:

Question 2 - Constitutional Amendment

(Chapter 5, Acts of 2007 Special Session)

Authorizing Video Lottery Terminals (Slot Machines) to Fund Education

Authorizes the State to issue up to five video lottery licenses for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education of children in public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12, public school construction and improvements, and construction of capital projects at community colleges and higher education institutions. No more than a total number of 15,000 video lottery terminals may be authorized in the State, and only one license may be issued for each specified location in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Worcester, and Allegany Counties, and Baltimore City. Any additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming in Maryland is prohibited, unless approved by a voter referendum.

(Enacts new Article XIX of the Maryland Constitution)

For informational purposes only, here's my understanding of the details on the five locations where the 15,000 slot machines will be permitted:

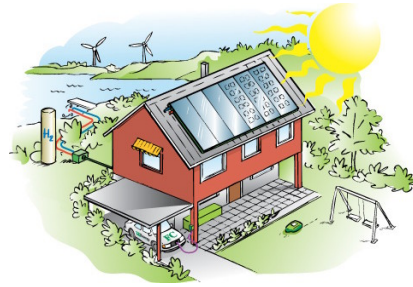
- 4,750 in Anne Arundel County within two miles of Route 295;
- 3,750 in Baltimore City, on city-owned land within one-half mile of I-95 and Route 295 that is in a nonresidential area and not adjacent to or within one-quarter mile of residential property;
- 2,500 in Worcester County within one mile of the intersection of Route 50 and Route 589;
- 2,500 in Cecil County within two miles of I-95;
- 1,500 in Allegany County on state-owned land associated with the Rocky Gap State Park that is not in the same physical building as the Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort

Because this is a Constitutional amendment voted on by Maryland voters across the State, any changes in the law – including efforts to expand slots beyond five locations – would be subject to another voter referendum. It cannot be expanded beyond 15,000 machines, at these five locations, unless we as voters say so.

It's estimated that this initiative will raise as much as \$600 million annually -- with half of its funding going to the Education Trust Fund -- but it's important to understand that this amount doesn't come close to closing the projected budget gap. In other words, passage of the slots initiative doesn't automatically solve our budget problems.

County Tax Credits, Rewards Now Available for Renewable Energy

We're making the turn toward fall, which means the days are getting cooler, and the nights even colder. And that means it's time to start turning on the heat. But maybe you're on heating fuel -- and with the costs of fuel skyrocketing, you're probably trying to put off turning on the heating system for as long as you can. Maybe you're even thinking about putting in a new unit -- one that doesn't rely on heating fuel, but uses instead the temperatures of the earth. Or maybe you're happy with your current system, but you'd like to do something to reduce the costs of electricity -- like tap into solar power.



Help is on the way.

[Legislation was passed on Earth Day, April 22, 2008](#), to provide residents with Property Tax Credits for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects implemented at home. For the current fiscal year, property Tax Credits up to \$250 are now available for the installation of eligible energy-efficiency devices, up to \$5,000 for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels or a geothermal thermal system, or up to \$1,500 for the installation of a solar water heater. The application for the Property Tax Credits and more information is available on the [Department of Finance Web site](#), or by calling 240-777-8950.

The county also has a Clean Energy Rewards Program, which provides monetary rewards for purchasing clean energy (wind, solar) from energy suppliers or renewable energy certificate (REC) marketers, or for generating clean energy on-site. Montgomery County residents, businesses, and organizations are eligible. Visit the [Clean Energy Rewards Web site](#) for more information.

Vox Pops

Voices From Around the Upcounty Community

A Note from Mike: I receive countless phone calls, e-mails, and letters each day. Most are passionate, many are frustrated, and a few are downright funny . . . but all of them are thoughtful and well-intended. I think readers of The Open Mike will be interested to hear what their Upcounty neighbors have to say, whether they're across the street or across the county. With that in mind, the "Vox Pops" section of my newsletter features highlights from some of the correspondence and phone calls I've received in my office over the past month.

Ban (Coffee) Drinking and Driving

"Why does the County Council allow cell phone use by drivers? On any given day, I can see at least 200 people negotiating the intersection in Olney, while cell texting with one hand and sipping coffee with the other and still trying to turn. I am not exaggerating! Please proceed on the assumption that your constituents are truly ignorant human beings and they must be protected from killing each other. What are waiting for? Introduce the ban of driver cell phone use. And by the way, please enforce the law that says no coffee sipping while driving." -- *Albin, Montgomery County*

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County Council Public Hearings Calendar

Supplemental Appropriations, Renewable Energy Considered

Don't be shy! The County Council regularly holds public hearings at which we actively seek your input, thoughts, comments, and suggestions. The policies, amendments, and legislation under consideration aren't just pieces of paper; they have a very real impact on you and the lives of your fellow citizens. For this reason, residents are always encouraged to attend the public hearings and give us your views.

Hearings are held in the Council's main meeting room on the 7th Floor of the County Office Building at 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville. ([Click here for a map.](#)) If you wish to testify on any of the items listed below, please call (240) 777-7931.

One more thing -- the hearing schedule can change rapidly, so always check the [County Council's home page](#) to get the most up-to-date information.

DATE	TIME	MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION
October 7	1:30 p.m.	WSSC Spending Control Limits
		<u>Expedited Bill 30-08</u> : Taxicabs - Licensing
October 14	1:30 p.m.	Resolution to amend the County Energy Policy to increase the share of renewable energy
		Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Individual Historic Resources
		Supplemental Appropriation to Montgomery College's FY2009 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY 2009-2014 CIP - \$1,500,000 for Takoma Park/Silver Spring West Campus Garage
		Supplemental Appropriation to the FY2009 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY2009-2014 COP, DOT - \$6,159,000 for Montrose Parkway West
October 28	1:30 p.m.	Supplemental Appropriation to the FY2009 Operating Budget, MCFRS - \$1,030,179 for National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Grant



Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD
(240) 777-7900
www.montgomerycountymd.gov

Vox Pops

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County Services Are Unwanted, Too Expensive

"There seems to be no end to adding programs, funding services the majority of residents do not want, need, or use. If some fiscal common sense and serious cost cutting does not find its way into County Council action we are heading for disaster. The two day furlough is not enough, slots are not the answer, either . . . too little, too late. We cannot allow unions to run the County with unsustainable demands: just look at the recent press on the salaries of police and firemen, 8 to 10 percent increases we cannot afford, excessive OT and many on paid disability after they retire...

"We have several friends who have moved, two more families are leaving the County at the end of the school year. Look at the Demographics, the tax base is shrinking. People who use services and do not pay for them are moving in." -- *Laura and Perry, Montgomery County*

County Residents Are "Misinformed Buyers"

"Of course people are going to say that Montgomery County is an excellent or good place to live. Those who responded in that fashion I feel, are probably just like the misinformed buyer, who buys a car because of the way it looks and does not bother to get the details of how the car is rated, crash test results, and overall customer satisfaction. There are WAY too many people in MC who do not look at the details, they just hear the propaganda that is put out by the left wing media and those who run this county and continue to vote those who run this county, over and over.



"Those who elected the county exec and the council as it stands, are those 'misinformed buyers' and just go through aimlessly through life. What really needs to be done is a TOTAL housecleaning and get those who know what the truth is and how to run a government. That will never happen here in MC though, too many people that are clueless. The people of MC don't support the 'sanctuary republic' way of thinking in this county and socialist state.

"I CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF THIS COUNTY . . . This county is ok to visit but when my kids are off to college, you won't be seeing any tax money from me. Hopefully, whoever buys my home when I leave will be a REAL taxpayer and not here illegally getting county subsistence, as you very well know what I mean." -- *Bruce, Gaithersburg*

Contact Me!



Councilmember Mike Knapp

100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

[\[Click here for a map.\]](#)

(240) 777-7955

Councilmember.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov